

Application No. 10/530,991

Response to Office Action

*AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION*

Replace paragraph [0022] with:

[0022] In further carrying out the invention, the discharge orifices of the angled fan air passages 39 also are located in recessed, upstream relation to the liquid discharge orifice such that liquid drawn radially outwardly by the low pressure area about the atomizing air discharge orifice and broken up by the atomizing air again does not substantially impact the end face of the air cap or cause undesirable build up of solid materials about either the atomizing and fan air discharge orifices 34, 39. In the illustrated embodiment, the end face 44 of the air cap defined between the tapered side surfaces 41 extends in substantial co-planar relation vertically across the end of the air cap, as viewed in FIG. 4. The end face 40 is formed with a pair of V-shaped cut-outs 42 on opposite sides of the central air cap opening ~~[[33]]~~ 34, with each V-shaped cut-out 42 having an outer surface oriented 45° to the longitudinal axis through which a respective angled fan passage 39 communicates. The other side of each V-shaped cut-out 42 defines an angled ramp surface which facilitates direction of the fan air radially inwardly toward the liquid discharging from the liquid discharge orifice 32. With the fan air discharge orifices 39 being formed through the angled sides of the V-shaped cuts 42, they are located both rearwardly of the liquid discharge orifice 32 as well as the atomizing air orifice 34 so as to be substantially protected from exposure to randomly directed liquid particles. With the fan air discharge orifices 39 recessed in such manner, it also can be seen that the air cap need not have forwardly projecting ears typical of the prior art.